

2. Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held at University of St Andrews on February 4th 2011 were approved.

3. Matters arising:

There were no matters arising not covered already on the agenda.

4. Shared Services project update

WP presented the progress in the project to date covering the two Edinburgh and two Glasgow seminars. A copy of the presentation can be found on the HEIDS website.

SM posed the question and sought clarification on what the group considered a shared service to be. By way of response AH then briefed the group on some of the issues around the use of a shared student record system at the UHI and also corresponded with the relevant item in the presentation on this subject.

The group discussed the relative merits and issues surrounding such a shared student record system and it was agreed that whilst it would require a substantial effort there were considerable benefits and would relate to topical discussions taking place in the sector around student journey, lifelong records and HESA returns.

The group then discussed some options which would be considered easier to tackle, for example HR, payroll and Finance. AH concluded the discussion by reiterating the desire to identify some easy options and some which would be considered very much more difficult.

5. SCURL walk-in access to e-resources project

FM updated the group on the SCURL project, funded by SLIC IDF and talked to the previously circulated paper. The project group was named, identifying corresponding HEIDS member institutions.

The group discussed the project and raised concerns over authentication, licensing and Shibboleth.

6. HEFCE Review of JISC

AH introduced the item and summarised the review document previously circulated. The changes proposed are not as quick as originally envisaged. AH then described the JANET and the Universities Scotland responses, the latter of which followed the HEIDS initial response. AH rounded up the introduction by describing the relative cuts in funding from councils, specifically the 10% cut from SFC.

DB described the SFC position and summarised issues with respect to the pace of change, the difficulty in managing a declining funding base whilst attempting to change their fundamental structure.

BG then described how JISC funding is predominantly from HEFCE Teaching and Learning stream which is fundamentally changing and reducing. It was a possibility that the network charges could rise by up to 6 times and that JISC services should be split rather than be attached to the network charge. BG then described that for Edinburgh, the charge would need to rise by only 2.5 times for it to be more economical to use a commercial provider. Would a top-sliced Scotland model work?

SM described how the London Universities would not allow their charges to subsidise more expensive provincial connections as their network costs could be

procured more economically through commercial providers.

DB set out that SFC would support universal services where it was for the public good.

The group then discussed the recent requests for response to the review from UCISA and US. FM agreed to collate responses and circulate. FM

7. **Benchmarking**

FM introduced the item on benchmarking on behalf of TM who sent his apologies. In particular, TM was interested in feedback to UCISA who currently undertake the HEITS survey.

SM started the discussion by describing some of the issues around sharing information which may be against competition laws, for example spend per student. There was also some concern on how ratios are derived.

The group then discussed the complex issues around the context in which each university IT function operates and how this influences the results, for example IT staffing numbers.

The discussion concluded that there were some useful factors that could and should be surveyed for benchmarking, for example total spend levels, but that careful consideration needs to be given to the different contexts.

8. **APUC update**

AD updated the group on progress with IT contracts by APUC of relevance to the group.

IT Hardware – contract now due in August with intent to introduce more choice.
Servers and Storage – not to include cloud storage due to the work currently underway by JANET (UK)

Apple –

Software – single supplier for Microsoft Campus and Adobe agreements.

Blackboard – ScotBUG offer on the table with some discount available to Scottish universities.

AH asked for clarification on the future of APUC. AD responded stating that the future was positive following recent changes.

9. **Reports**

9.1 **SFC (DB)**

Other updates from SFC were covered elsewhere. DB updated the group on progress with the Public Sector Network.

9.2 **Universities Scotland (DT)**

DT updated the group on impact of changes in the political environment and the commitment from the First Minister to fill the education funding gap with the rest of the country with a graduation contribution off the table for the present time.

US response to the spending review; £26m on top of 3% to be found in the sector. Requests of IT-related efficiencies to be sent to DT/US.

All

DT then described the US continuing work on the student journey map and the Efficient Government group led by Professor McDaid at UWS.

9.3 **JISC (AH/MT)**

This item was considered to be discussed in previous items.

9.4 JCN/JANET UK (AH/MT)

FM reported on behalf of FN the following update:

Business and Community Engagement process is now nearing completion. The connections policy has been rewritten as the new Eligibility Policy. Substantial changes have been made to the Acceptable Use Policy. These documents are not yet in the public domain, but we hope to do this in May. The guidelines to state-aid are currently being worked on. We are awaiting comments from JISC Legal to complete this work.

There has been a significant amount of interest in the JANET 3G service, with plans to start offering the service to early adopters in June. It is hoped to launch a full service on July 11th. David Richardson from JANET(UK) will be addressing the FaTMAN Technical Committee on eduroam in general and will also talk about JANET 3G. This meeting is scheduled for June 1st.

SIX – the consultation has now ended and we would like to extend our thanks to everybody who participated in this process. We are now considering how best to move forward and translate these requirements into a physical network. Bob Day will discuss SIX at the JANET Scotland Briefing event in June.

JANET has delivered a technical first for UK research and education with the switch of its production traffic to 100Gbit/s. This 100Gbit/s router to router is in contrast to the more usual 100G “optical” deployment with a 10x10Gbit/s presentation at the router. Internationally other national research and education networks have conducted trials of 100Gbit/s technology but JANET is the first to run it for operational traffic.

Networkshop: Very successful event although numbers were down on last year’s attendance by 20 delegates. Eighty-six delegates completed the online survey and of these only 2 delegates indicated that NWS had not met their expectations. Feedback on the event is still welcome.

JANET Training: We have successfully trialled the ‘Implementing eduroam’ course. This course is technical in nature and uses netlab to simulate wired and wireless connections. We hope to offer this course in May.

The IPv6 Fundamentals Course seems to have been well-received pre-networkshop with lots of interest being shown in the course. No further dates have yet been planned for the course.

The Basic Networking course has been re-designed for people with no networking knowledge. We hope this will appeal to service desk staff.

Hands on Digital Forensics may be offered in the near future as an online briefing. The Introduction to CSIRT online briefing was very successful with 100 people signing up for this event.

A Customers Requirement Workshop was held recently in Dundee for the members of the FaTMAN consortia, to discuss their re-procurement needs and to decide on the way forward.

A JANET Scotland briefing has been organised for the 9th June 2011. This event will take place in the University of Edinburgh. My thanks to Brian Gilmore and Carla Zaccardelli for their help in organising this event. Full details of this event, the programme and the venue can be found at:
<http://www.ja.net/services/events/2011/janetscotlandbriefing/index.html>.

Following the recent Wilson review, the JANET(UK) Board has now issued its

own response to the recommendations listed below:

- To engage actively in the governance transformation process for the delivery of our services
- For stakeholder consultation to play a key part in determining both JISC's and our own future role and structure
- For more focused activity, less bureaucracy, increased value for money and the optimization of service delivery
- To determine our role within the future structure of JISC and the related companies
- To review future funding and universal reach
- The full response can be viewed from the following link:
<http://www.ja.net/company/board-response.html>

9.5 RSCs (CC)

CC updated the group on the current progress with the single RSC at Glasgow University. The RSC annual conference would be held on June 10.

DB and CC will sit on the RSC board.

9.6 SCURL/SCONUL (FM/MT)

This item was considered to be discussed in previous items.

9.7 UCISA CISG (HFK)

There was no update from UCISA CISG.

9.8 UCISA Executive

In the absence of TM, KM updated the group on the current UCISA priority to help IT Directors in tough times. It was also reported that JISC Executive Secretary is due to reach retirement age in January 2012.

10 Round table

Members updated the group on current topics of interest in their respective institutions

11 AOCB

CC reported that the RSAMD would be changing their title to Royal Conservatoire of Scotland on September 1.

12 Venue and Agenda for the next meeting

The next meeting would be held in the University of the Highlands and Islands in September. The Secretary thanked the University of Edinburgh for offering a venue at late notice.

Agenda items would include Business Intelligence, the McClelland Report and a final update on the Shared Services project.

Presentation

The University of Edinburgh presented the UniDesk shared services helpdesk offering to the group.